

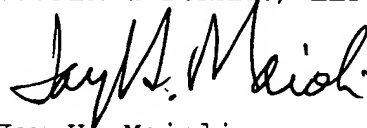
REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 22, and 23 remain in the application with claims 1, 4, 8, 22, and 23 having been amended hereby and claims 18-21 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

By reason of the cancellation of claims 18-21 Applicants have effectively elected for prosecution in this application Group I consisting of claims 1-17, 22, and 23.

An early and favorable examination based on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
COOPER & DUNHAM, LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli", is written over the typed name.

Jay H. Maioli  
Reg. No. 27,213

JHM:tb